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RECENT EDUCATIONAL DISCUSSION

"A SURVEY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, 1916-1918." U. S. BUREAU OF EDUCATION, BULLETIN, 1919, No. 22.—The following extracts are of special interest:

"Up to the year 1917-1918 the problem of academic freedom of speech involved chiefly the expression of opinion on social and economic questions. With the coming of the war the danger zone shifted. It is natural, in times of great national tension like the present, that the personal views of thinking men should be expressed with greater vigor or passion than usual. Differences of opinion on questions of national or international policy, ventilated with heat on both sides, easily lead to the impugning of motives and even to the damning charge of disloyalty. As a result of this surcharged condition of the intellectual atmosphere, many doubtless well-meaning individuals have suffered the extreme academic penalty for utterances which under ordinary circumstances would be passed with scant notice or criticism. There has developed, therefore, a special problem of academic freedom of speech in war time."

Reference is made to the situation in Columbia University. The opinion of the Committee on Academic Freedom and Academic Tenure of the American Association of University Professors is cited from the BULLETIN of 1918; also President Lowell's statement in his annual report for 1916-1917 (see BULLETIN, February-March, 1918):

"During the past two years the committee on Academic Freedom and Academic Tenure of the American Association of University Professors has had brought to its attention over 30 cases of alleged infraction of the principles of academic freedom of speech and academic tenure. The opinions and decisions of this committee and its sub-committees, some of which have been quoted in former reports of the Commissioner of Education, have grown in weight and importance in the academic world. The committee, by its conservative attitude, has been able to eliminate from public discussion and criticism a large proportion of the cases brought to its doors and it has also been able to help in the

solution of many problems by dealing privately with the institutions and individuals concerned.

"The committee has centered its attention on a limited number of cases which led to the exposition of principles underlying academic freedom of speech and permanency of academic tenure. It has in no sense sought publicity. The rulings of the committee have been largely based on the principles stated in the 1915 report of the Association. Taken together, the decisions of the committee, already covering a large variety of cases, lay the foundation of a new type of educational law which should prove to be of great value in solving equitably the complex problems of academic freedom of speech and academic tenure.

"During the period under review two reports involving questions of academic tenure not relating to freedom of speech have been made by committees of the American Association of University Professors. The first of these was an investigation into the reasons for the dismissal of Miss Winona A. Hughes, dean of women at the College of Wooster, and the methods used by the board of trustees in severing her connection with the college. The committee found the action of the president and the board to be arbitrary, unjustifiable, and such as to jeopardize seriously the standing of the college among American higher institutions. It declared that 'the methods of the present administration have not been such as to appeal to the loyalty of a conscientious and self-respecting faculty, and it is equally obvious that they are not the methods which gain for a college the confidence and respect of the academic world.'

"On June 7, 1917, the State Board of Education of the state of Montana decided not to retain as president of the State University Dr. E. B. Craighead, who had acted in that capacity for three years. The State Board also decided not to reemploy three professors of the university. The matter having been brought before the committee on Academic Freedom and Academic Tenure it was the opinion of the committee after careful investigation that the dismissal of President Craighead and the three professors was not justified. The procedure of the board was criticized by the committee as being unsound in method and disastrous in its results to the interests of the university. (See BULLETIN OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS, May, 1917.)"